

## Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

**As of: End of Week, April 17**

Next steps for districts and charters:

1. Please take a few minutes to take an [optional survey](#) to provide TEA with information on how to better support districts during summer programming.
2. Bookmark TEA's coronavirus website [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date guidance
3. Please continue to submit questions to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov)
4. Thanks to those who are continue to help amplify the [Stay Well, Texas](#) public health campaign

Reminders:

- [Governor Abbott's closure order](#) was extended to the end of the 2019-20 school year. Please do not send updates on districts closings to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov).
- TEA hosted the following webinars this week:
  - A deep dive webinar related to [TexasHomeLearning.org](https://TexasHomeLearning.org) on Wednesday, April 15 at 3:00pm.
  - A cybersecurity webinar related to virtual meeting security considerations on Thursday, April 16 at 10:00am
  - A webinar on Thursday, April 16 at 2:00pm focused on our Special Education updates, particularly the recent procurement of the Amplio Speech platform to provide Speech-Language Pathologists services during COVID
  - A webinar hosted by Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth on Friday, April 17 at 10:00am.
- The TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call have moved to **Tuesday** and **Thursday** at 3:00pm. Call-in information will remain the same.

Recap of topics covered:

- Child Nutrition
  - TDA continues to [update guidance](#) related to serving meals.
  - Clarification this week included topics related to:
    - Operators providing bulk items to students
    - Meals service on weekends, other days off
    - Meals served to students over age 18
  - As you update your meal sites within TDA's system, those sites will continue to be reflected at [TXSchools.gov](https://TXSchools.gov) on the state's MealFinder map. Please help spread the word to your families.
- Health Care System Coordination

- Child Care licensing waivers and related [guidance](#) were issued allowing school systems to more easily provide emergency childcare for children of essential workers.
  - The [Child Care Support](#) section of our website contains several resources for districts.
- School Boards
  - [Guidance](#) to support school boards was updated to include information related to superintendent evaluations and House Bill 3 goal-setting processes.
- Educator Certification Testing
  - An [update](#) from Pearson and ETS was posted on Thursday.
- Educator and Staff Issues
  - An updated [FAQ](#) was posted related to teacher certification and hiring.
- Accountability
  - The Accountability [FAQ](#) was updated on Wednesday to remind districts that decisions regarding accountability for the 2020-2021 school year have not yet been made.
- Student Enrollment
  - An [FAQ](#) and best practices guidance document was posted related to the virtual enrollment of students.
  - In addition, the [Attendance and Enrollment](#) FAQ was updated on Tuesday.
- Summary of Waivers
  - The [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document was updated to include waivers related to college preparation assessment, Gifted/Talented students, and child care.
- Competitive and Letter of Intent (LOI) Grant Deadlines
  - Due to extended school closures, the following competitive and LOI grant application deadlines are now due on April 27, 2020:
    - 2020-2021 Lone Star STEM Cycle 2, Year 1 grant
    - 2020-2021 Public Charter School Start-up Program (Subchapter D) grant
    - 2020-2021 CTE Perkins Reserve grant
    - 2020-2021 Additional Days Planning and Execution grant
    - 2020-2022 P-TECH Success grant
- Funding
  - Several FAQ documents were updated in the [Waivers and Funding](#) section of our website, including guidance related to [COVID-19 Costs and CARES Act](#) funding, [Federal Funding and Grants](#), and [General State Funding](#).
  - Regarding the CARES Act, please be careful with information received from non-governmental entities as this information likely gives you a false picture of your funding.
- Certain Student Populations
  - Several updated resources have been added to the Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus [webpage](#).
  - Guidance related to [Gifted and Talented](#) students was posted, in addition to updated information for students experiencing [homelessness](#) and districts providing [pregnancy related services](#).

- A statewide Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) COVID-19 webinar will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. This webinar will provide several strategies, best practices, tools, and resources to assist the identification and support of students experiencing homeless during COVID-19.
- Updated [English Learner FAQs](#) also posted on Tuesday
- SPED
  - Several new resources have been added on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus [webpage](#).
  - The Special Education [FAQ](#) was updated on Thursday to include information on dyslexia.
  - A [Progress Monitoring Checklist](#) was posted, in addition to a step-by-step guide to support providing [Counseling as a Related Service](#). An FAQ related to [Remote Counseling and Student Support Services](#) was also posted.
  - A [checklist](#) (in editable PDF format) for managing challenging behaviors was posted as districts support parents for students being served with behavior intervention plans (BIPs).
  - An easy-to-use checklist was also posted for [parents](#) with tips and links to videos to help with managing challenging behaviors.
  - TEA has procured a platform for interested school systems to provide Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) services during COVID.
    - The first ten thousand student seats were purchased for district use; a discounted price is being offered for districts using this service beyond the initial ten thousand student seats.
    - **Districts can register for this service at:**  
<https://airtable.com/shr0UGeXOWOF4w4Wd>
    - Please make sure you attend the Special Education Directors webinar on Thursday, April 16 at 2:00pm for additional information related to this SLP platform.
- Instructional Continuity
  - Our Instructional Continuity [website](#) is updated daily with an FAQ, LOTS of resources, recording webinars, and much more. All optional. The [Instructional Continuity](#) and [Texas Home Learning](#) FAQs were updated on Tuesday.
  - We're excited to announce a [statewide "at-home" collaboration](#) with PBS, including the development of an [educator resource guide](#).
  - Last week, TEA launched [TexasHomeLearning.org](#) to provide at-home learning resources as a contingency option for school districts
    - On Tuesday's call, we highlighted the specific printable packets that can be shipped directly to homes for students to use (with support from a caregiver and/or remote support from a teacher) while at home.
    - Another webinar was conducted on Wednesday, April 15 to provide additional information. The [webinar](#) and the [Printing Order Form and Budget Calculator](#) spreadsheet was posted on Thursday.
      - You can learn more about the Texas Home Learning Printing and Shipping process [here](#).